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Acting Chief, Interdepartmental Coordinating
and Planning Staff
Acting Asst. Director, Research and Evaluation

3 October 1946

Scientific Branch, ORE

1. Gen. Vandenberg has offered the position of Chief (or Coordinator), Scientific Branch, ORE, to Mr. Howland Sargeant. We expect that Mr. Sargeant will become available during the current month. Activation of the Branch awaits that event.

2. Our concept of the general functions of the Scientific Branch is set forth in the revised functional chart for ORE developed in consultation with Col. Shannon. On several occasions we have discussed the implementation of this concept with Dr. Robertson and with Mr. Sargeant. The essential question has been whether the Branch should consist of a few highly expert consultants to coordinate intelligence research being done in the several Departments and other Government agencies, or whether it should itself engage in considerable scientific intelligence research. Although the former view was favored at first, the tendency now is toward the latter in anticipation of budgetary restrictions on Departmental activities in this field. It is understood that, in any case, consultation and coordination with private individuals and agencies will be essential.

3. Our present intention is to recruit, in grade P-8, men of good standing and connections in six fields of immediate interest, namely Aeronautics, Atomic Energy, Biological Warfare, Chemical Warfare, Communications & Electronics, and Guided Missiles. The difficulty to be anticipated is that outstanding scientists will prefer a status as consultants rather than full-time, yet the full-time services of at least one outstanding man in each field are essential. As these men are recruited, they will survey the existing situation in their respective fields and recommend a program of coordination and research. In accordance with the findings in each case, some Divisions of the Branch may be set up as agencies for coordination and exchange, while others may be expanded to undertake primary research responsibilities. Additional Divisions may be established.

4. We suggest that an interdepartmental conference on

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scientific intelligence should be deferred until Mr. Sargeant has reported for duty and has had sufficient opportunity to survey the existing situations.

J. K. Muddle
Acting Asst. Director
Research and Evaluation

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